United Nations S/2015/127

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 February 2015

Original: English

Identical letters dated 22 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon the instructions of my Government, I would like to inform you of the following.

Facing an imminent threat from the terrorist organization Deash, the Turkish armed forces conducted a military operation for the relocation of the Süleyman Şah Memorial Outpost, a 10-acre area of land of Turkish territory inside Syria.

During the operation, which started on 21 February 2015 at 1900 hours and ended on 22 February 2015 at 0400 hours, the Süleyman Şah Memorial Outpost was temporarily relocated to Eshme within Syria, adjacent to the Turkish-Syrian border without prejudice to its legal status and will be redeployed to its original location following a political solution to the Syrian crisis.

As mentioned in my letter dated 31 March 2014 and numbered 2014/14136816-TURKUNO DT/4474978, Turkish sovereignty over the enclave was established by the Treaty of Ankara, signed between Turkey and France on 20 October 1921. The Treaty was later reconfirmed by the signatories on 29 May 1937, by the Border Protocol signed between Turkey and Syria on 5 August 1956, by the exchange of letters between Turkey and Syria on 17 December 1973 and by various project documents related to the maintenance of the Süleyman Şah Memorial Outpost over the years. The Syrian regime committed itself to this acquis on various occasions, most recently through its note verbale of 29 September 2012.

Turkey respects the territorial integrity of Syria and is committed to protect its rights and interests emanating from international law and to exercise its right of self-defence stipulated in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be urgently brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

15-02659 (E) 240215

Please recycle